

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09359 261527 Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 053942

R 260930 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2265

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 9359

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: GENERAL TRUONG EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS DURING
NEXT TWO WEEKS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO CINCPAC

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED MAY 26
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOURACTION

QUOTE

S E C R E T DANANG 0584

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: GENERAL TRUONG EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS DURING
NEXT TWO WEEKS

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION TODAY, CORPS COMMANDER LTG
NGO QUANG TRUONG EXPRESSED TO ME HIS APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT
NEXT TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS MAY BE PERIOD OF HIGH THREAT FOR
MR I. HE CITED VISIT OF " HIGH RANKING OFFICER FROM JGS" MAY 25
ADVISING HIM THAT A " MORE STRICT" CEASEFIRE WOULD BE ORDERED BY
BOTH SIDES IN NEAR FUTURE. FIRST DATE MENTIONED WAS MAY 26

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09359 261527 Z

BUT, TRUONG SAID, THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO JUNE 4. TRUONG SAID THAT GIST OF NEW CEASEFIRE CONFIGURATION WOULD BE STRICT ADHERENCE TO PRESENT LINES OF BATTLE AND FRIENDLY- ENEMY CONTROL, WITH MUTUAL AGREEMENT NOT TO ENCROACH ON OTHER PARTY' S AREAS.

2. TRUONG MENTIONED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS REACHING HIS DESK IN LAST 48 HOURS FROM AGENTS STATING THAT A MAJOR ENEMY ATTACK AGAINST HUE AND UNIDENTIFIED PARTS OF QUANG TRI WOULD BE MADE EITHER AS PART OF ENEMY EFFORT TO IMPROVE FIELD POSITIONS PRIOR TO " REAL CEASEFIRE" OR AS SERIOUS EFFORT TO TAKE HUE AND / OR DESTROY GVN UNITS NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS. HE ASKED FOR MY APPRAISAL OF LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH MOVES IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. I REPLIED, FIRST, THAT WE HAD RECEIVED NO LATE INTELL INDICATING INCREASED PROBABILITY OF IMMINENT ENEMY ATTACK AND, SECOND, THAT OUR ESTIMATE OF ENEMY CAPABILITIES- INTENTIONS FOR NEXT 60- DAY PERIOD DID NOT INCLUDE A MAJOR ENEMY INITIATIVE, BUT RATHER A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT BUILDUP AND CONTINUED PREPARATION FOR INTENSIFIED POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

3. TRUONG SAID HE BASICALLY AGREED WITH THIS APPRAISAL BUT THAT THE ECHOES HE WAS GETTING FROM SAIGON, PLUS THE INTELL REPORTS, HAD PERSUADED HIM TO CALL A MEETING OF DIVISION COMMANDERS TODAY AT 1000 HOURS, AT WHICH TIME HE PLANS TO ORDER INCREASED VIGILANCE ON PART OF ARMED FORCES. HE DID NOT MENTION FORMAL ALERT STATUS.

4. WE DISCUSSED IMPLICATIONS OF A " STRICT CEASEFIRE" AND AGREED THAT EXCEPT FOR QUANG NGAI PROVINCE (WHERE GVN FORCES ARE CARRY- ING OUT MOPPING UP OPERATIONS ON BATANGAN PENINSULA AND IN MO DUC/ DUC PHO, PLUS OPENING ROAD TO MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN) THERE WAS NOT MUCH FURTHER REDUCTION IN MILITARY ACTIVITY THE FRIENDLIES COULD UNDERTAKE. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN IT IS UNIQUELY THE NVA WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING THE OFFENSIVE, TRUONG OBSERVED.

5. TRUONG SENSES THAT SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE IS IN THE WIND FROM SAIGON AND PARIS. HE SEEMS QUITE CONFIDENT OF THE GVN' S TACTICAL POSITION IN MR I AND OF THE GOOD EFFECTS THE PRESENT PERIOD OF INTENSIFIED TRAINING HAS HAD UPON HIS TROOPS. HE HAS NOT DISCARDED, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS PLANNING A BIG PUSH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09359 261527 Z

BROWN
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OCT: SAIGON 9359 NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON09359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730557/aaaakaxg.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980318
Subject: GENERAL TRUONG EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005